

Appendix table 7-15.

Belief that technological discoveries will destroy the Earth: 1997, 1999, and 2001

Characteristic	1997	1999	2001
Percent			
All adults			
Strongly agree	4	4	4
Agree.....	22	27	25
Do not know	6	5	4
Disagree	56	55	56
Strongly disagree	12	9	11
Male			
Strongly agree.....	5	5	4
Agree.....	21	24	23
Do not know	6	4	3
Disagree	53	56	57
Strongly disagree	15	11	13
Female			
Strongly agree.....	4	4	4
Agree.....	23	29	26
Do not know	7	6	5
Disagree	57	53	55
Strongly disagree	9	7	9
Less than high school graduate			
Strongly agree.....	7	8	7
Agree.....	26	35	43
Do not know	7	6	5
Disagree	48	48	43
Strongly disagree	12	3	3
High school graduate			
Strongly agree.....	4	4	4
Agree.....	24	27	24
Do not know	7	5	4
Disagree	56	56	57
Strongly disagree	9	8	11
Baccalaureate and higher			
Strongly agree.....	2	2	1
Agree.....	14	18	13
Do not know	4	5	5
Disagree	61	57	63
Strongly disagree	19	18	18
Attentive public to science and technology^a			
Strongly agree.....	4	8	3
Agree.....	11	18	23
Do not know	6	3	3
Disagree	60	56	53
Strongly disagree	19	15	19
Sample size (number)			
All adults	2,000	1,882	1,574
Male	930	900	751
Female	1,070	982	823
Less than high school graduate	420	403	116
High school graduate	1,188	1,111	834
Baccalaureate and higher	392	368	614
Attentive public to science and technology	288	216	195

^aTo be classified as attentive to a given policy area, an individual must indicate that he or she is "very interested" in that issue, is "very well informed" about it, and is a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine. Individuals who report that they are "very interested" in an issue but do not think that they are "very well informed" about it are classified as the "interested public." All other individuals are classified as members of the "residual public" for that issue. The attentive public for science and technology combines the attentive public for new scientific discoveries and the attentive public for new inventions and technologies. Any individual who is not attentive to either of those issues but who is a member of the interested public for at least one of those issues is classified as a member of the interested public for science and technology. All other individuals are classified as members of the residual public for science and technology.

NOTES: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding. A few respondents did not provide information about their highest level of education. Responses are to the following question: Technological discoveries will eventually destroy the Earth. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resource Statistics (NSF/SRS), NSF Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, various years.